

**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
WHISPER CREEK SUBDIVISION PROJECT  
IN SOUTH PLACER COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA**

**FINAL REPORT**

*Prepared for:*

**Towne Development of Sacramento  
3050 Tilden Drive  
Roseville, CA 95661-7942**

*Prepared by:*

**PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.  
P.O. Box 160756  
Sacramento, CA 95816**

*July 2003*



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*Authors:*

**Lynn Compas, M.A.  
and  
James Gary Maniery, M.A.**

*July 3, 2003*



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## INTRODUCTION

As part of the environmental permitting process, Towne Development of Sacramento contracted with PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. (PAR) to conduct a cultural resources inventory and impact assessment of an estimated 37 acres of land located in south Placer County, near the City of Roseville, California (Figures 1 and 2). PAR inventoried all prehistoric, historic, ethnographic and Native American sites within the project area.

The proposed project involves federal jurisdiction (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit 39), necessitating compliance with the provisions of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470-470w). The NHPA governing regulations promulgated by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the Protection of historic properties (Title 36 CFR Part 800) requires the consideration of potential effects of the proposed undertaking on historic properties (i.e., those resources determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places). The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended in 1998) also requires consideration of project impacts on historic properties. PAR's work was conducted to fulfill these federal and state regulations regarding the environmental process.

The proposed Whisper Creek Subdivision Project would consist of a 37-acre residential development with open space areas along Whisper Creek and an unnamed tributary. The site is bisected by Whisper Creek, a seasonal stream supporting a corridor of cat tails and small shrubs. The Whisper Creek Subdivision project is located in Township 10 North, Range 6 East, Section 17 of the Citrus Heights United States Geological Survey Quadrangle (see Figure 2).

## BACKGROUND RESEARCH

### Research

A comprehensive field inventory of the project area was accomplished through the integration of two tasks: 1) an intensive archaeological reconnaissance; and 2) written correspondence with appropriate state agencies. A record search was requested at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) on March 6, 2003. Information concerning prehistoric, ethnographic and historic use of the project area as well as previous cultural resource investigations was sought.

Correspondence was also conducted with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Native American Heritage Commission and Placer County Historical Society (Appendix A). These agencies were asked to provide information concerning known sacred sites, traditional values, concerns, villages or ceremonial use areas within the project area. No responses had been received as of March 14, 2003.

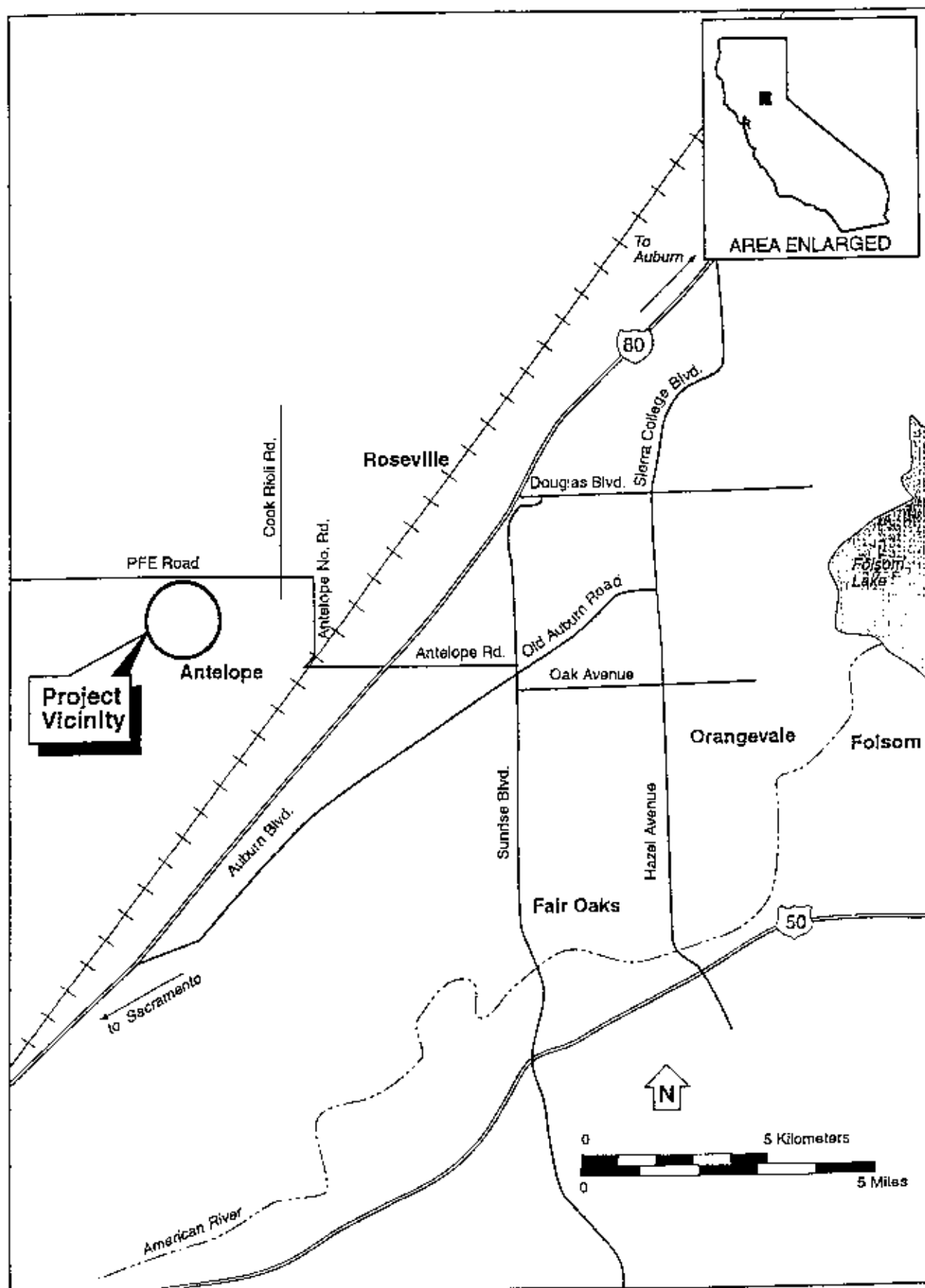
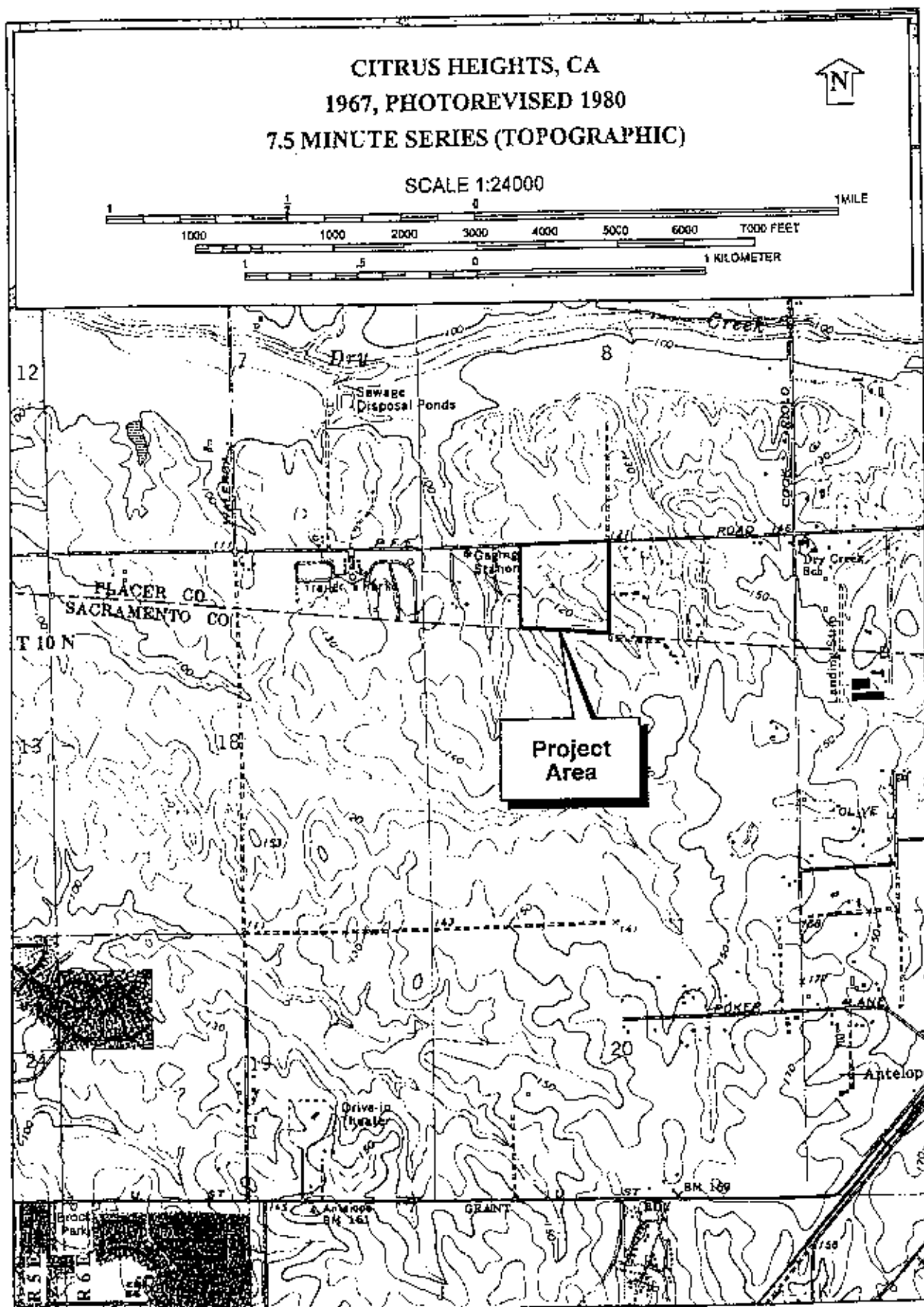


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map





**Figure 2. Project Location Map**

## Results

The NCIC conducted a record search for the subject property on March 10, 2003. The record search indicated that nine previous cultural resource investigations have been completed within an approximately one-half mile radius of the Whisper Creek property including Derr 1981, 1991, 1993, 1999; Farber 1986; Maniery and Maniery 1986; Maniery 1988, 1990, 1992; Palumbo 1966; Peak 1979a, 1979b, 1982.

The studies indicate that the general area supported prehistoric camp sites characterized by midden deposits and artifact scatters. Ranches and orchards were also located in the vicinity of the project area. These sites are characterized by several different kinds of historical features including extant buildings and archaeological remains such as foundations.

No previously recorded architectural or archaeological resources were identified within the project area.

## NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

### Natural History

The project is located in the eastern edge of the Sacramento Valley in a portion of the Great Central Valley or Lower Sonoran Zone (Storer and Usinger 1963:26). Elevation ranges from 100 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 140 feet amsl. The topography is characterized by gently-sloping hills and tributaries of Dry Creek a perennial stream located north of the project area.

Native vegetation includes valley oak, interior live oak, blue oak, scrub oak, cottonwood, willow and others. Today, various oaks remain clustered along Dry Creek with scattered occurrences of oaks on the hillsides. Annual grasses are also growing on the exposed hills, along with several introduced species, including star thistle, soft chess, tarweed and red-stemmed filaree to name a few.

The geologic history of the general vicinity spans about one million years (Hackel 1966; Hill 1975; Storer and Usinger 1966). The prominent formations identified are characteristic of the Quaternary period of the Cenozoic era and include the Turlock Lake (sand, silt, and gravel) and Riverbank (alluvium) formations respectively (Wagner et al. 1981).

## The Cultural Environment

### *Archaeology*

Interpretation of the prehistory of the Central Valley Region, particularly the northern Sacramento Valley, was based on archaeological investigations that began early in this century. J. A. Barr, W. H. Holmes and P. M. Jones were among the earliest to publish results of excavations carried out in the Stockton region; here, information on artifact types and antiquity was first developed for the valley region. Later in the 1930s, Sacramento Junior College and the University of California, Berkeley, entered the picture. Work conducted by the two colleges shed light on the diversity of prehistoric cultures in the Great Valley (Moratto 1984).

By 1940, three archaeological periods were hypothesized based on mortuary patterns and ornamental artifacts: Early Period, Transitional Period, and Late Period. The Central California Taxonomic System was eventually developed, resulting in a refinement of the early scheme. This system, still applied today, includes the Early, Middle, and Late Horizons. Although some disagreement surfaced during the 1940s, the three sequences spanned a time-period from 2500 B.C. to A.D. 1880. As more and more archaeological sites were investigated the time frame and complexity of the cultures represented changed. In the 1950s and 1960s, for example, the earliest phase was postulated to extend back to 5500 B.C. (Moratto 1984:167-216).

Work has continued toward refinement of the prehistoric periods throughout California. For additional information on the subject the reader is referred to Moratto's book, *California Archaeology*, which provides a good summary of the archaeological work and development of prehistory for both the valley region and the state (Moratto 1984:167-216).

### *Ethnography and Ethnohistory*

The Native Americans that occupied the project vicinity at the time of Euroamerican contact (ca. 1850s) are known as the Nisenan, referred to as the Southern Maidu (Dixon 1905; Kroeber 1976; Wilson and Towne 1978:387). Several ethnographers, including Beals (1933), Faye (1923), Gifford (1927), Kroeber (1976), Powers (1976), and Wilson and Towne (1978), have studied these Maidu people and generally agree that Nisenan territory included the drainages of the Bear, American, Yuba and southern Feather River. Their permanent settlements were "... generally on the ridges that separated parallel streams, either on crests or on knolls or terraces part way up" (Kroeber 1976:395).

A typical village consisted of several conical houses covered with bark slabs. The nearest ethnographic village in relationship to the project was called *Pichiku* (Wilson and Towne 1978:388). The *Pich-u-gut* is also given for a village site in Roseville (as cited in Palumbo 1966:9). The exact location of these villages has never been pinned down but many long time residents of Roseville indicate a village was located in the vicinity of what is today Roseville Square off Douglas Boulevard (Maniery 1985; Palumbo 1966).

The lower foothills and valley were rich in natural resources and the Maidu took advantage of many available foods. Acorns were important to their diet and were supplemented with seeds, nuts, berries, herbs, and fruit. Virtually every animal was hunted and/or trapped, excluding lizards, snakes and grizzly bears. Maidu were nomadic throughout much of the year, moving from place to place following game and gathering plants.

In the 1860s both the Fiddymont and Kaseberg ranches, located a few miles north of the project, allowed Maidu families to collect acorns, tubers, and grasshoppers during the late summer and fall (Davis 1975). These activities would take place along Pleasant Grove Creek (Foster and Foster 1981:9). According to Wilson (1972:32-38), "Traditionally, families would usually go to special places to get acorns, and they may have owned certain trees" (Wilson 1972:37). Wilson's information is based on ethnographic work with Elizabeth Enos, a foothill Nisenan living north of Auburn.

The Nisenan hunting and gathering cycle was altered drastically with the discovery of gold in Coloma in 1848. As miners poured into the Roseville and Auburn areas the Native Americans were forced out of their winter villages, land was fenced, streams were silted and food resources became increasingly difficult to procure. Stephen Powers, after traveling through the region in the 1870s, noted that the "Nishiman [sic] . . . had the misfortune to occupy the heart of the Sierra mining region, in consequence of which they have been miserably corrupted and destroyed" (1976:317). By the time of his visit, Nisenan were surviving as best they could, working for whites in mines or on ranches, panning for gold, or adopting even more abstract forms of survival (Wilson and Towne 1978:396-397).

## *History*

The earliest Euro-American use of the project vicinity was probably in the late 1840s when Placer and Sacramento counties were swarming with men searching surface placer deposits for gold. By 1854 the area was sparsely settled and ranching had begun on a small scale. A man named Lee acquired 10,500 acres of land through government script around this time and settled on Pleasant Grove Creek north of the project (Lardner and Brock 1924:211). In 1856 he sold to Stephen A. Boutwell, who began to acquire other land near the California and Oregon Railroad (now Union Pacific). Boutwell and his partner, William Dunlap, used their land for a sheep ranch, combining their holdings with those of a new partner, James W. Kaseberg, in 1864. Lardner and Brock (1924:212) note that during the 1870s as many as 30,000 head of sheep were sheared on the ranch each year. They also note that some of the first thoroughbred and trotting horses raised in California were on the Boutwell, Dunlap, and Kaseberg ranch (again, less than five miles north of the project). All of these ranches are located less than five miles north of the proposed project.

## SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

### Methods

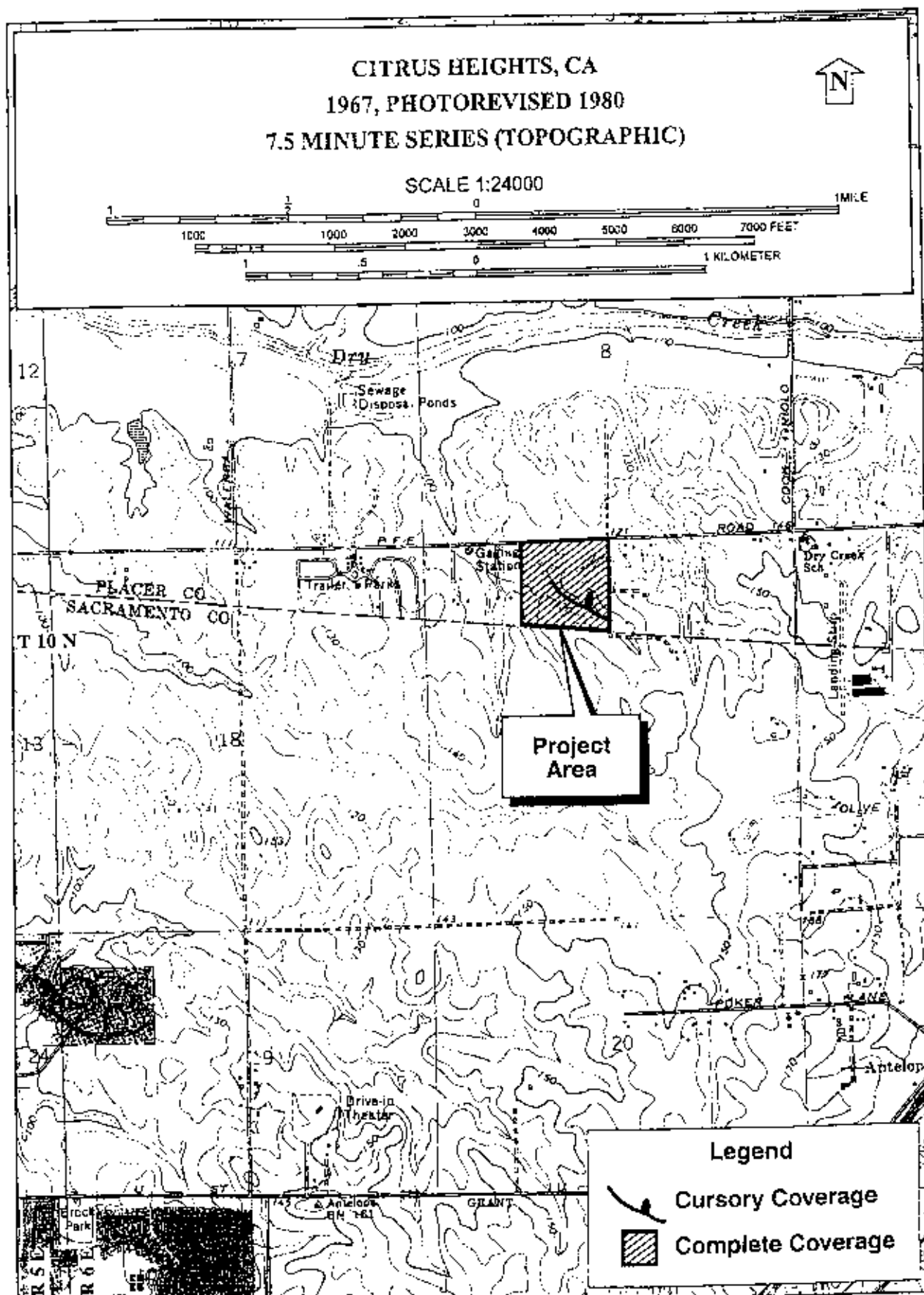
The survey was conducted by PAR Cultural Resource Specialists Lynn Compas and Monica Schmidt, on March 7, 2003. Intensive survey using transects spaced no more than 20 meters apart were used in 95 percent of the project area. Cursory coverage was used in areas where there was dense vegetation that prevented intensive inspection of the natural ground surface (approximately five percent of the project area). The archaeologists examined all areas where the ground was visible for any sign of prehistoric or historic remains and, at random intervals if necessary, scraped the ground surface using a small hand trowel to peel back vegetative cover and allow a closer inspection of the ground surface without subsurface excavation. Survey coverage is plotted on Figure 3.

### Results

The landscape has been altered by an underground utility corridor that leads from the PFE road south through proposed lot 50. Other alterations include a flat above the eastern portion of the open space corridor along the western side of the project that appears to have been landscaped with non-native plants such as pompus grass, weeping willow, fruit trees and date palms; however, none of the plants appear to be over 50 years of age. The area is used by local children as is evidenced by modern toys and a tree house. In addition, young fruit trees and rose bushes still in their pots have been planted along the southern property boundary. It appears as though someone has been using the area as an informal nursery.

A paved driveway or narrow road that may have led into or traversed the property at one time is located in the southeastern portion of the property within proposed Lot 50. It appears to have been neglected for several years as plants are growing through it; however, it does not appear to be over 50 years of age.

Two parallel railroad ties are located near the pavement. They may have been used for a flower or vegetable bed by the informal nursery tenant. The ties are still covered with creasote, are not weathered and appear to have been placed within the last ten years.



**Figure 3. Survey Coverage Map**

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

### **Archaeological and Architectural Resources**

No archaeological or architectural resources were located within the project area. No further studies are needed at this time.

### **Recommendations**

There exists the possibility of undiscovered prehistoric or historical archaeological remains. In the event that subsurface prehistoric or historical archaeological remains are identified during construction and cultural resource personnel are not present, work in the affected areas should stop until a qualified professional archaeologist can evaluate the find. Legislation applicable to this situation includes the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and 36 CFR 800 of the NHPA.

Prehistoric resources that may be identified include, but are not limited to, concentrations of stone tools and manufacturing debris made of obsidian, chert, basalt and other materials; milling equipment such as bedrock mortars, portable mortars, and pestles; and locally darkened soils (midden) that may contain dietary remains such as shell and bone, as well as human remains. Historic resources that may be identified include, but are not limited to small cemeteries or burial plots, house foundations, privys, cans with soldered seams or tops, and bottles or fragments of clear and colored glass. All project personnel must be briefed about potential archaeological resources and the procedures to follow if a discovery is made.

### **Human Remains**

Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050 of the California Health and Safety Code protect Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods, regardless of age, and provide method and means for the appropriate handling of such remains. Section 106 of the NHPA also protects Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods. If human remains are encountered, work should halt in that vicinity and the County coroner should be notified immediately. At the same time, an archaeologist should be contacted to evaluate the situation. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of such identification. CEQA details steps to be taken if human burials are of Native American origin.

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APPENDIX A  
*Correspondence*



# PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Cultural Resource Management ■ Biology ■ Environmental Planning



ESTABLISHED 1982

March 6, 2003

Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

*RE: Whispering Creek Subdivision Project (PAR Ref. No. 03-2004)*

Dear Mr. Mellon:

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. (PAR) is conducting a cultural resource investigation for the Whispering Creek Subdivision project. The project consists of constructing a housing development in 37 acres in Placer County, CA. The location of the project is depicted on the enclosed map.

We would appreciate any background information regarding prehistoric, historic, or ethnographic cultural resources that you can provide about this project area. We are also interested in any concerns that the Native American community may have regarding this project.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,  
PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Lynn Compas  
Senior Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosures

CC: Mary L. Manieri

MS:LC



# PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Cultural Resource Management ■ Biology ■ Environmental Planning



ESTABLISHED 1982

March 6, 2003

Debbie Pilas-Treadway  
Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE: Whispering Creek Subdivision Project (PAR Ref. No. 03-2004)*

Dear Ms. Pilas-Treadway:

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. (PAR) is conducting a cultural resource investigation for the Whispering Creek Subdivision project. The project consists of constructing a housing development in 37 acres in Placer County, CA. The location of the project is depicted on the enclosed map.

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Sincerely,  
PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Lynn Compas  
Senior Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosures

CC: Mary L. Maniery

MS:LC







ESTABLISHED 1982

# PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Cultural Resource Management ■ Biology ■ Environmental Planning

March 6, 2003

Placer County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5643  
Auburn, CA 95604

*RE: Whispering Creek Subdivision Project (PAR Ref. No. 03-2004)*

Dear Director:

PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. (PAR) is conducting a cultural resource investigation for the Whispering Creek Subdivision project. The project consists of constructing a housing development in 37 acres in Placer County, CA. The location of the project is depicted on the enclosed map.

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Sincerely,  
PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Lynn Compas  
Senior Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosures

CC: Mary L. Maniery

MS:LC



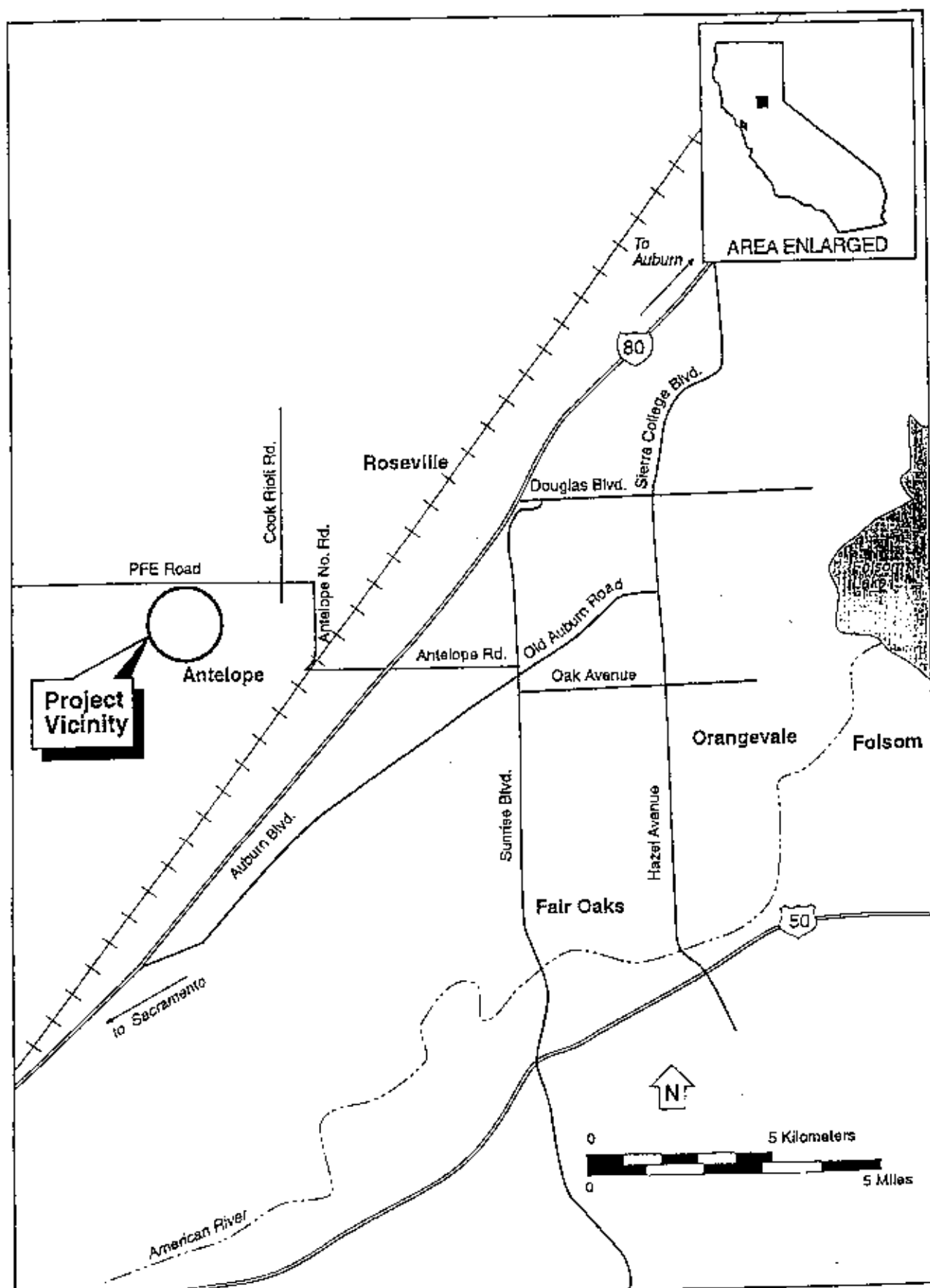


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



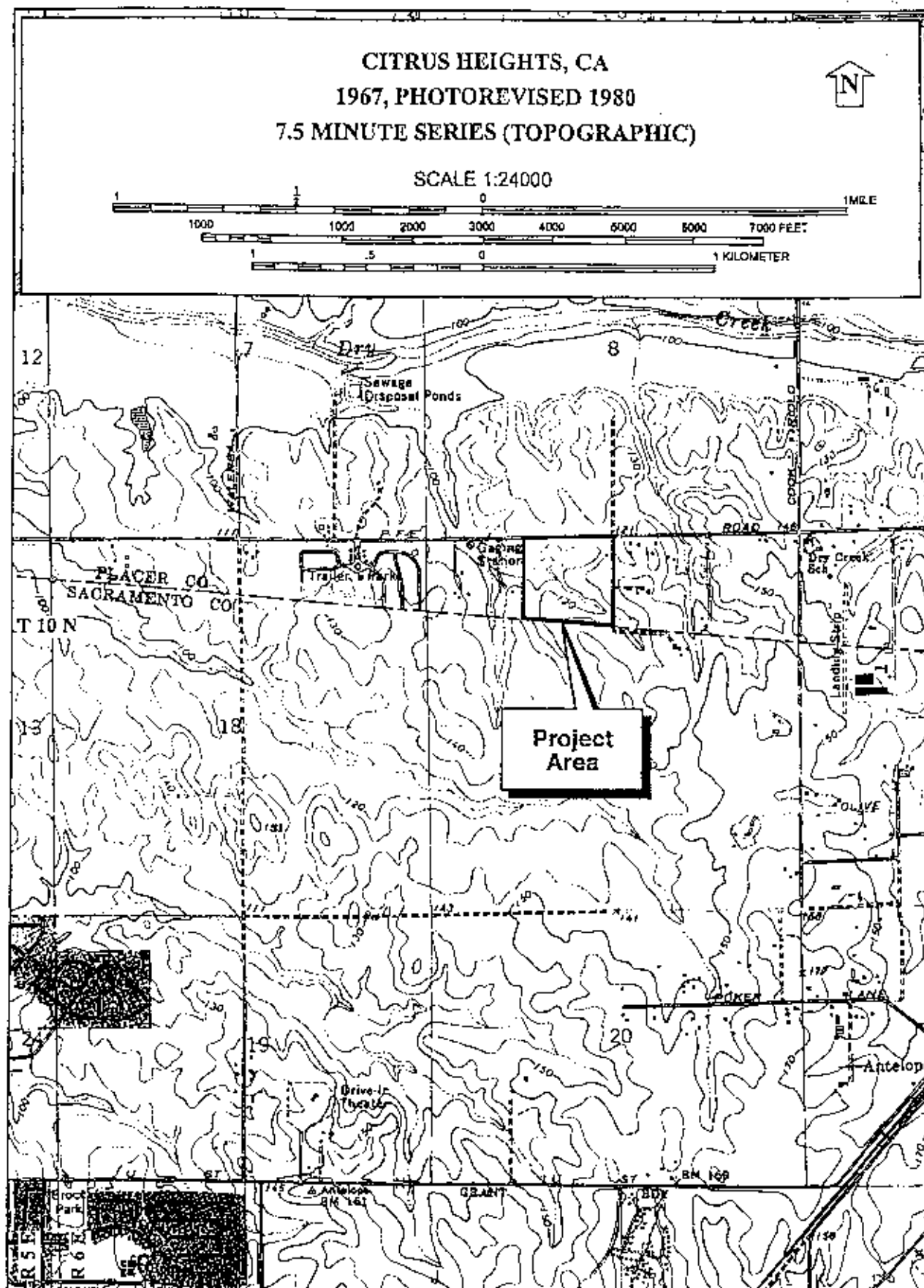


Figure 2. Project Location Map

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECT  
FOR THE ALMOND RANCH PROJECT  
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared by

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Prepared for

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September 1, 2004  
(Job #04-105)



## **INTRODUCTION**

The project area is located in the Dry Creek vicinity in southern Placer County, California. The project involves the development of a residential community. The project area is located in sections 17, Township 10 North Range 6 East, mapped on the Citrus Heights USGS topographic quadrangle (Map 1). Because the proposed work will require Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the applicant will participate as a consulting party to assist the federal agency in demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470f; regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800).

The property contains a residential building dating to 1961 with associated barn dating to between 1967 and 1980.

Melinda A. Peak, senior historian with Peak & Associates, Inc. served as principal investigator for the study, with Ann Peak completing the field survey (resumes, Appendix 1).

## **REGULATORY CONTEXT**

The Section 106 review process is implemented using a five step procedure: 1) identification and evaluation of historic properties; 2) assessment of the effects of the undertaking on properties that are eligible for the National Register; 3) consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other agencies for the development of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that addresses the treatment of historic properties; 4) receipt of Advisory Council on Historic Preservation comments on the MOA or results of consultation; and 5) the project implementation according to the conditions of the MOA.

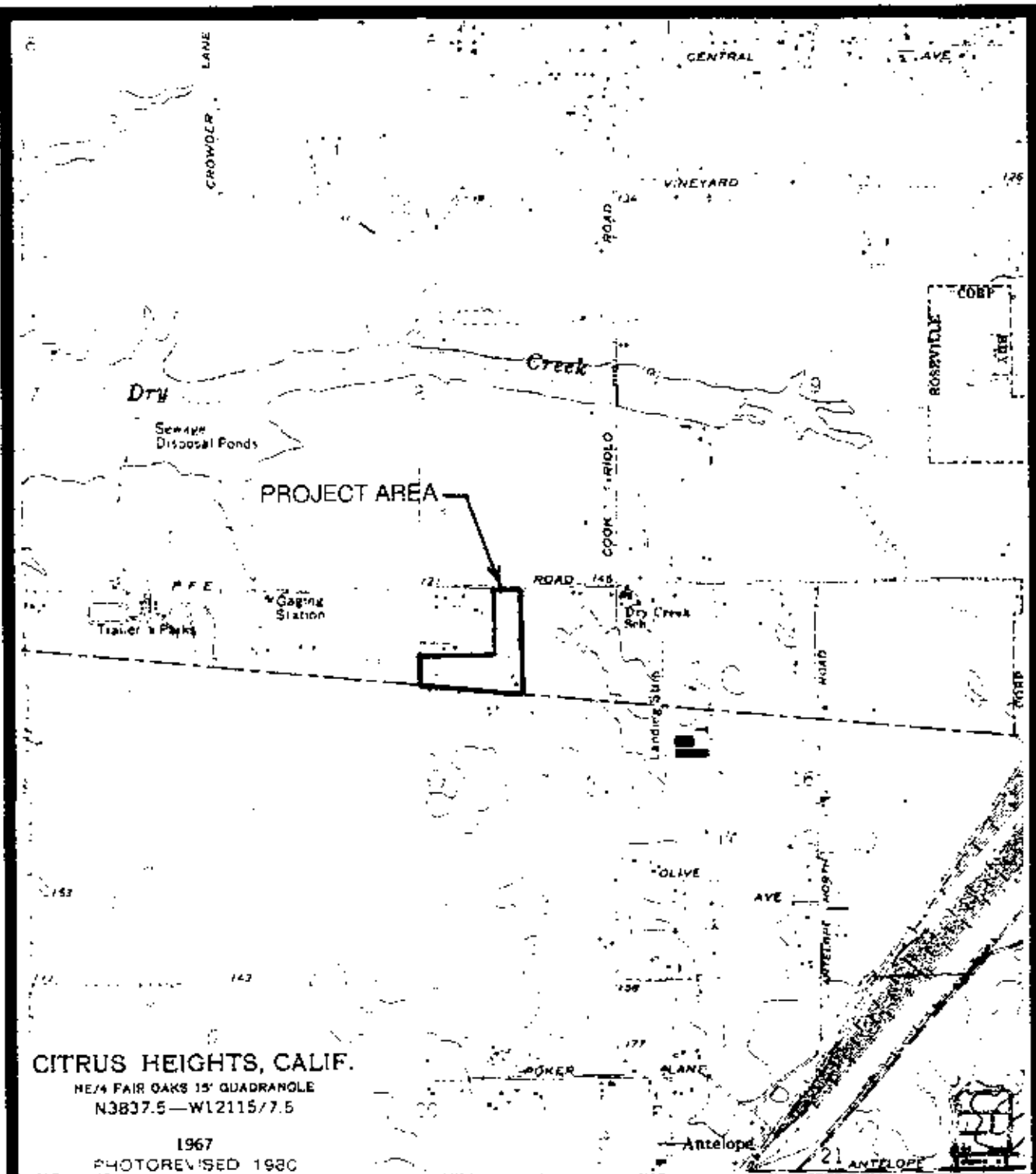
The Section 106 compliance process may not consist of all the steps above, depending on the situation. For example, if identification and evaluation result in the documented conclusion that no properties included in or eligible for inclusion are present, the process ends with the identification and evaluation step.

## **FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATION**

Decisions regarding management of cultural resources hinge on determinations of their significance (36 CFR 60.2). As part of this decision-making process the National Park Service has identified components which must be considered in the evaluation process, including:

- o criteria for significance;



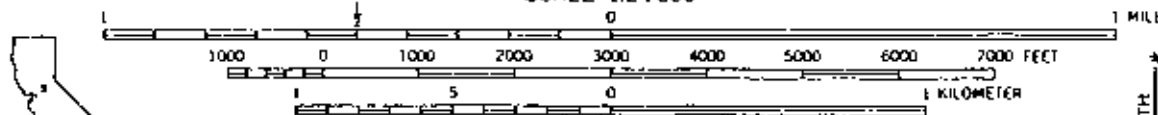


# CITRUS HEIGHTS, CALIF.

NE/4 FAIR OAKS 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3837.5—W12115/7.5

1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1980

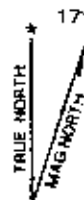
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BASE MAP IS MAPPED, EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



MAP 1

- o historic context; and
- o integrity.

### **Criteria for Significance**

Significance of cultural resources is measured against the National Register criteria for evaluation:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and,

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4).

### **Historic Context**

The historic context is a narrative statement "that groups information about a series of historic properties based on a shared theme, specific time period, and geographical area" To evaluate resources in accordance with federal guidelines, these sites must be examined to determine whether they are examples of a defined "property type". The property type is a "grouping of individual properties based on shared physical or associative characteristics". Through this evaluation, each site is viewed as a representative of a class of similar properties rather than as a unique phenomenon.

A well developed historical context helps determine the association between property types and broad patterns of American history. Once this linkage is established, each resource's potential to address specific research issues can be explicated.

## Integrity

For a property to be eligible for listing in the National Register it must meet one of the criteria for significance (36 CFR 60.4 [a, b, c, or d]) and retain integrity. Integrity is defined as "the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period".

The following discussion is derived from National Register Bulletin 15 ("How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation").

Within the concept of integrity, there are seven aspects or qualities that define integrity in various combinations. The seven aspects are: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several or usually most of these aspects. The retention of specific aspects is necessary for a property to convey this significance. Determining which of the seven aspects are important involves knowing why, where and when the property is significant.

The prescribed steps in assessing integrity are as follows:

- define the essential physical features that must be present for a property to represent its significance;
- determine whether the essential physical features are visible enough to convey their significance;
- determine whether the property needs to be compared with similar properties; and,
- determine, based on the significance and essential physical features, which aspects of integrity are particularly vital to the property being nominated and if they are present.

Ultimately, the question of integrity is answered by whether or not the property retains the identity for which it is significant.

All properties change over time. It is not necessary for a property to retain all its historic physical features or characteristics. However, the property must retain the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity. The essential physical features are those features that define why a property is significant.

A property's historic significance depends on certain aspects of integrity. Determining which of the aspects is most important to a particular property requires an understanding of the property's significance and its essential physical features. For example, a property's historic significance can be related to its association with an important event, historical pattern or person. A property that is significant for its historic association is eligible for listing if it retains the

essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with the important event, historical pattern, or person.

A property important for association with an event, historical pattern, or person ideally might retain some features of all seven aspects of integrity. Integrity of design and workmanship, however, might not be as important to the significance, and would not be relevant if the property were an archeological site. A basic integrity test for a property associated with an important event or person is whether a historical contemporary would recognize the property as it exists today. For archeological sites that are eligible under Criteria a and b, the seven aspects of integrity can be applied in much the same way as they are to buildings, structures, or objects.

In sum, the assessment of a resource's National Register eligibility hinges on meeting two conditions:

- o the site must possess the potential to be eligible for listing in the National Register under one of the evaluation criteria either individually or as a contributing element of a district based on the historic context that is established; and
- o the site must possess sufficient integrity, i.e. it must retain the qualities that make it eligible for the National Register.

For the National Register, "a district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of ... objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development." The identity of a district derives from the relationship of its resources, which can be an arrangement of functionally related properties.

## **CULTURAL HISTORY**

### **Archeological Background**

The Sacramento Delta was one of the first regions in California to attract intensive archeological fieldwork. Between 1893 and 1901, avocational archeologist J. A. Barr excavated many prehistoric mounds in the Stockton area. He collected nearly 2000 artifacts during the course of his investigations. H. C. Meredith was another avocational archeologist of the period who pursued collecting in the same Stockton locality. Meredith (1899, 1900) did publish a compilation of his own and Barr's findings, and these appear to constitute the earliest accounts of delta archeology. Holmes (1902), from the Smithsonian Institution, further elaborated on the delta or "Stockton District" archeology, presenting illustrations of artifacts collected by Meredith and Barr.

It was Elmer J. Dawson who first recognized culture changes through time in delta archeology. Though he was an amateur archeologist, Dawson understood the necessity of keeping accurate

notes on grave associations and provenience of artifacts. He collaborated with W. E. Schenck to produce an overview of northern San Joaquin Valley archeology (Schenck and Dawson 1929). The overview contained information on more than 90 prehistoric sites as well as data on previous collectors.

By 1931, the focus of archeological work was directed toward the Cosumnes River locality, where survey and exploration were conducted by Sacramento Junior College (Lillard and Purves 1936). Excavations, especially at the stratified Windmill mound (CA-SAC-107), suggested three temporally distinct cultural traditions: Early, Transitional, and Late. Information grew as a result of excavations at other mounds in the delta and lower Sacramento Valley by Sacramento Junior College and the University of California, Berkeley.

Previous investigations in the project region have focused upon very detailed archival research of Spanish sources (Bennyhoff 1977), reexamination of earlier work (Ragir 1972; Schulz 1981; Doran 1980) and archeological investigations at a number of small sites (Schulz et al. 1979; Schulz and Simons 1973; Soule 1976). Several of the previously investigated sites probably represent satellite encampments or small villages associated with major villages. The majority of the sites appear to be relatively late in time, and probably represent Plains Miwok. The activities practiced are varied, but detailed studies on the faunal collection suggest seasonality of occupation and a focus on fish species other than the main channel varieties.

Writing the definitive summary of California archeology, Moratto (1984: 529-547) devoted an entire chapter to linguistic prehistory. For the Central Valley region, Moratto points out that some Early Horizon and Middle Horizon central California archeological sites appear at least in part, contemporaneous, based on existing radiocarbon dates. Cultural materials recovered from CA-SJO-68, an Early Horizon site, are thought to relate to date to  $4350 \pm 250$  B.P. or 2350 B.C. On the other hand, a Middle Horizon component at CA-CCO-308 dates to  $4450 \pm 400$  B.P. or 2450 B.C. The antiquity of other Early and Middle Horizon sites demonstrate an overlap of the two horizons by a millennium or more.

One explanation proposes that the Middle Horizon represents an intrusion of ancestral Miwok speaking people into the lower Cosumnes, Mokelumne, and Sacramento River areas from the Bay Area. The Early Horizon may represent older Yokuts settlements or perhaps the speakers of a Utian language who were somehow replaced by a shift of population(s) from the bay.

### **Ethnological Background**

The project area lies in the territory attributed to the Nisenan, a branch of the Maidu group of the Penutian language family. Tribes of this language family dominated the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay areas, and western Sierra Nevada foothills at the coming of the white man. The Nisenan controlled the drainages of the Yuba, Bear, and American rivers, along with the lower portion of the Feather River. The tribes of this whole region referred to themselves as Nisenan, meaning "people," in contrast to the surrounding tribes, in spite of close linguistic and cultural

similarities. For this reason, they are usually named by this term rather than the more technical "Southern Maidu." In any event, the local main village was of more importance to the people than the tribal designation, and groups identified themselves by the name of the central village.

Their northern boundary has not been clearly established due to similarity in language to neighboring groups. The eastern boundary was the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Probably a few miles south to the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers on the valley floor was their southern boundary. The western boundary extended from this point upstream to the mouth of the Feather River.

The Valley Maidu settlement pattern was basically oriented to major river drainages, with ancillary villages located on tributary streams and sloughs. Major villages often supported a population exceeding five hundred people (Wilson and Towne 1978:389). The flat grasslands between water courses were used for collecting vegetable foods and hunting, but these activities leave little, if any, archeological evidence.

Both the valley and foothill Nisenan lived by hunting and gathering, with the latter being more important. Acorns in the forms of meal, soup or bread provided the staple diet, augmented by a wide variety of seeds and tubers. Hunting and fishing were regularly practiced, but provided less of the diet than vegetable foods. The bedrock mortar and pestle were employed to process the acorn meats into flour, and the mortar cups are frequently found throughout the range of oak trees. Both salmon and eel were caught at Salmon Falls near Folsom.

Religion was in the form of the "Kuksu Cult," a widespread pattern among the California Indians. Ceremonies congregated in the semi-subterranean dancehouse located at the central village and "cry sites" where the annual mourning ceremony for the dead took place. Later, the religious revival of the ghost dance also affected this area.

In 1833, the great epidemic swept through the Sacramento Valley. This epidemic has been attributed to malaria (Cook 1955:308), and is estimated to have killed seventy-five percent of the native population, leaving only a shadow of the original Maidu to face the intruding miners and settlers. The Nisenan of the mountain areas felt little of the impact of European settlement in California as compared to the Valley Nisenan, who were subjected to some missionization. The Mountain Nisenan, remote from these early impacts, were overwhelmed by the gold rush. Native ways of life were almost totally abandoned, and today only a few families in Placer, Nevada, Yuba, and El Dorado counties identify themselves as Nisenan and can speak the language (Wilson and Towne 1978).

## **Historical Context**

Although the project area lies in Placer County, its history is closely tied to the town of Antelope, only a little over a mile southeast of the project area.

In 1864 when the Central Pacific Railroad completed the section of the transcontinental railroad line that connected Sacramento to Roseville, it provided a means of marketing agricultural products, mainly grains, grown in the Antelope and Dry Creek vicinity. In 1876, capitalizing on the need for a storage and shipping facility near the railroad, J.F. Cross constructed a 40 foot by 100 foot brick warehouse adjacent to the railroad tracks in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 21, Township 10 north, Range 6 east, Mount Diablo Meridian (Thompson and West 1880:213).

The location of the warehouse proved to be successful. In 1877 the Antelope Business Association, who named the settlement Antelope, opened the first store in the community and by June of that year they opened the only post office in Center Township (Gudde 1969:11; Frickstad 1955:131). In 1878 John Berry purchased the store from the Antelope Business Association. In 1879 the area continued to grow as Richard Astill built the first hotel and opened the second store in the town (Thompson and West 1880:213).

In 1880, the community of Antelope included four residences, two stores, one hotel, and a blacksmith shop run by G.W. Anderson, a native of Iowa who moved to California in 1876 and to Antelope in 1878 (Thompson and West 1880:250).

In 1907, an 84.2 acre tract of land was purchased by Alvin E. Farnham and his wife Cordelia that included the project area. The 1909 plat map of the township shows ownership of the tract by Farnham and C.E. Gould. The Goulds held large tracts of land in the Dry Creek district. A biography for Mrs. Farnham in 1924 mentioned that the property contained a large almond orchard that provided a good source of income. The Farnhams belonged to several social organizations in Antelope, and by 1924, son Mahlon Farnham had taken over management of the ranch (Lardner and Brock 1924:453-455).

1961, a three bedroom, one bath home was constructed on the property. The building is a plain, ranch-style residence, with no distinctive characteristics. The parcel containing the buildings totals 9.32 acres. Between 1967 and 1980, a barn was added to the property.

## **RESEARCH**

A records search was conducted for the project area at the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System by Julia Green of ECORP (Appendix 2). No portion of the project area had been previously surveyed, and there are no prehistoric or historic resources in or near the project area.

Archival research for the home site was undertaken at the Placer County Archives and through the Placer County Assessor.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION**

A letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a check of the Sacred Lands files (Appendix 3). The check failed to reveal any properties listed as Sacred Lands. The NAHC did provide a list of individuals and groups to contact regarding the property. Ms. Green sent letters to Rose Enos; Jeff Murray of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians; Christopher Suehead of Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation; and Jessica Tavares and John Suehead of United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. A response was received from the United Auburn Indian Community requesting that a survey be conducted.

## **FIELD ASSESSMENT**

Ann Peak and Sue Merritt completed a survey of the property in August 2004. The entire project area was traversed on foot, using 10 meter wide transects. Ground visibility was fair to good. No prehistoric resources were located within the project area.

The 1961 residence and 1967-1980 barn were not formally recorded as they are less than 45 years in age, and are clearly non-distinctive architectural resources.

## **EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

As a result of the identification and evaluation efforts, an agency official may find that there are no historic properties present or there are historic properties present but the undertaking will have no effect upon them as defined in Section 800.16 (i).

If the agency official finds there are historic properties which may be affected by the undertaking, the agency official shall apply the criteria of adverse effect . "An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association" (Section 800.5 (a) ).

There are three possible findings:

- **Finding of no historic properties affected:** There is no effect of any kind on the historic properties.



- **Finding of no adverse effect:** There could be an effect, but the effect would not be harmful to the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register; or
- **Adverse effect:** There could be an effect, and that effect could diminish the integrity of such characteristics.

There were no historic properties recorded within the project area. With regard to Section 106 of the NHPA, it is recommended that agency seek concurrence from the California SHPO with a finding of "no historic properties affected" per § 800.4(d) (1).

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1973 Fish Species Diversity in a Prehistoric Central California Indian Midden. *California State Department of Fish and Game* 59(2):107-113. Sacramento.
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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Resumes**



**PEAK & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
**RESUME**

**MELINDA A. PEAK**

**January 2004**

**Senior Historian/Archeologist**

3941 Park Drive, Suite 20 #329

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

(916) 939-2405

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Ms. Peak has served as the principal investigator on a wide range of prehistoric and historic excavations throughout California. She has directed laboratory analyses of archeological materials, including the historic period. She has also conducted a wide variety of cultural resource assessments in California, including documentary research, field survey and report preparation.

In addition, Ms. Peak has developed a second field of expertise in applied history, specializing in site specific research. She is a registered professional historian and has completed a number of historical research projects. Ms. Peak has been a regular lecturer for courses in the Capital Campus Public History program (California State University, Sacramento), teaching cultural resource law and site specific research methods.

Through her education and experience, Ms. Peak meets the Secretary of Interior Standards for historian, architectural historian, prehistoric archeologist and historic archeologist.

**EDUCATION**

M.A. - History - California State University, Sacramento, 1989

Thesis: *The Bellevue Mine: A Historical Resources Management Site Study in Plumas and Sierra Counties, California*

B.A. - Anthropology - University of California, Berkeley, 1976

**RECENT PROJECTS**

In recent months, Ms. Peak has completed several determination of eligibility and effect documents in coordination with the Corps of Engineers for projects requiring federal permits, assessing the eligibility of a number of sites for the National Register of Historic Places. She has also completed historical research projects on a wide variety of topics for a number of projects including the development of navigation and landings on the Napa River, a farmhouse

dating to the 1860s, an early roadhouse, and a section of an electric railway line. She also completed an NRHP evaluation of Folsom Dam for the Corps of Engineers.

In recent years, Ms. Peak has prepared a number of cultural resource overviews and predictive models for blocks of land proposed for future development for general and specific plans. She has been able to direct a number of surveys of these areas, allowing the model to be tested.

She served as principal investigator for the multi-phase Twelve Bridges Golf Club project in Placer County. She served as liaison with the various agencies, helped prepare the historic properties treatment plan, managed the various phases of test and data recovery excavations, and completed the final report on the analysis of the test phase excavations of a number of prehistoric sites. She is currently involved as the principal investigator for the Clover Valley Lakes project adjacent to Twelve Bridges in the City of Rocklin, coordinating contacts with Native Americans, the Corps of Engineers and the Office of Historic Preservation.

Ms. Peak has served as project manager for a number of major survey and excavation projects in recent years, including the many surveys and site definition excavations for the 172-mile-long Pacific Pipeline proposed for construction in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. She also completed an archival study in the City of Los Angeles for the project. She also served as principal investigator for the 1997 coaxial cable removal project for AT&T.

Additionally, she completed a number of small surveys, served as a construction monitor at several urban sites, and directed the excavations of several historic complexes in Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado Counties.

Ms. Peak is the author of a chapter and two sections of the recently published history (1999) of Sacramento County, *Sacramento: Gold Rush Legacy, Metropolitan Legacy*. She is currently preparing text for the second Sacramento County history volume, to be published by Heritage Media in 2004.

## **RESUME**

**ANN S. PEAK**

**February 2004**

Consulting Archeologist

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Ms. Peak has had over thirty years of extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, in providing professional archeological services. She has completed archeological work in all cultural areas of California, western Great Basin, and southeastern Oregon. Her projects include contracts with federal, state and local agencies and private firms.

She has directed all types of cultural resource-related projects, including field surveys, test excavations, data recovery programs, intensive archival research and cultural resource management.

### **EDUCATION**

M.A. - Anthropology - California State University, Sacramento, 1975

B.A. - Anthropology - California State University, Sacramento, 1972

Studies in public health and microbiology, University of California, Berkeley, 1949-1950

### **RECENT PROJECTS**

Ms. Peak most recently served as principal investigator for the data excavations at CA-PLA-592, -613, -618, -619, and -620, prehistoric midden sites in the Sierran foothills. In 1993, she served as the principal investigator for the excavations at CA-PLU-88, a large seasonal camp site with prehistoric rock art in the Plumas National Forest. She also completed the recordation and analysis of the numerous petroglyphs present within a portion of the site.

Ms. Peak served as the principal investigator for the various surveys and site testing for the 172-mile-long Pacific Pipeline project proposed for construction in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. She has completed a number of smaller surveys throughout northern California and Nevada.

Ms. Peak has extensive experience in Great Basin culture areas, directing a number of large block surveys for proposed new mines or re-operations of historic mine sites throughout Nevada.

She has served as principal or field director and co-author on other large projects completed in recent years, including excavations of two historic sites in Sacramento County and one in El Dorado County, several prehistoric sites within the proposed Haystack Reservoir in Merced County and a prehistoric site within the area of the proposed Susanville Correctional Center expansion.





## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Record Search**





February 4, 2004

Jeff Pernstein  
Towne Development of Sacramento, Inc.  
775 Sunrise Avenue, Suite 270  
Roseville, California 95661

**RE: ALMOND RANCH, PLACER COUNTY #2002-225**

Dear Mr. Pernstein:

A records search for the Almond Ranch project (Attachment A) was completed using files from the North Central Information Center with the following results:

*Prehistoric Resources:* The records indicate that no previously recorded sites are located within this project.

*Historic Resources:* The records indicate that no previously recorded sites are located within this project.

*Previous Archaeological Investigations:* The records show that two previous archaeological surveys were done adjacent to the project area. PAR Environmental Services, Inc. surveyed the portion to the west of the project for the *Whisper Creek Subdivision*. Peak and Associates, Inc. surveyed the portion to the east of the project for the *Tang Fat proposed subdivision*.

*Literature Search:* In addition to the official records and maps for archaeological sites and surveys in Placer County, the following historic references were also reviewed: the National Register of Historic Places-Listed properties (2003), California Historical Landmarks (1995 and updates), California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates), Gold Districts of California (1979), California Gold Camps (1975), California Place Names (1969), Survey of Surveys Historic and Architectural Resources (1989), Directory of Properties in the Historical Resources Inventory (1999), Caltrans Local Bridge Survey (1989, updated 2000), Caltrans State Bridge Survey (1987), California and Pony Express Trail (1984), Historic Spots in California (2002), 1907 Geologic Land Office Plat map and Handbook of North American Indians Volume 8 (1978).

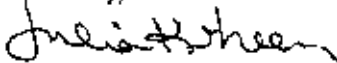
*Literature Results:* The 1907 GLO plat map shows a trail to the southeast of the project about ¼ mile. The remaining literature and records did not reveal any known resources.

*Native American Consultation:* We have consulted with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) concerning potential areas of Native American concerns regarding the Almond Ranch project area. We mailed letters to extend necessary consideration to all Native Americans on the contact list provided by NAHC on the proposed undertaking. No comments or concerns were expressed except, a letter from the United Auburn Indian Community expressing that a survey be conducted. They have also requested that if resources are recorded within the

project they would like a copy of the cultural resources report. All information sent is included in the record of consultation (Attachment B).

In conclusion, the project area has not been archaeologically surveyed. Therefore, it is recommended that the parcel be surveyed for cultural resources. Enclosed please find our proposed amendment 5, which includes costs for recommended surveys and subsequent report. If the terms meet with your approval, please execute and return to our office.

Sincerely,



Julia K. Green  
Cultural Resource Specialist

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Native American Consultation**





January 8, 2004

Ms. Debbie Pilas-Treadway  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capital Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

***RE: Cultural Resources Identification Effort for the Almond Ranch property,  
Placer County, California T10N, R6E, Section 17.***

Dear Ms. Pilas-Treadway:

ECORP Consulting, Inc. has been retained to assist in the planning of the development on the parcel indicated above. As part of the identification effort, we are seeking information from all parties that may have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties or cultural resources in the area of potential effect.

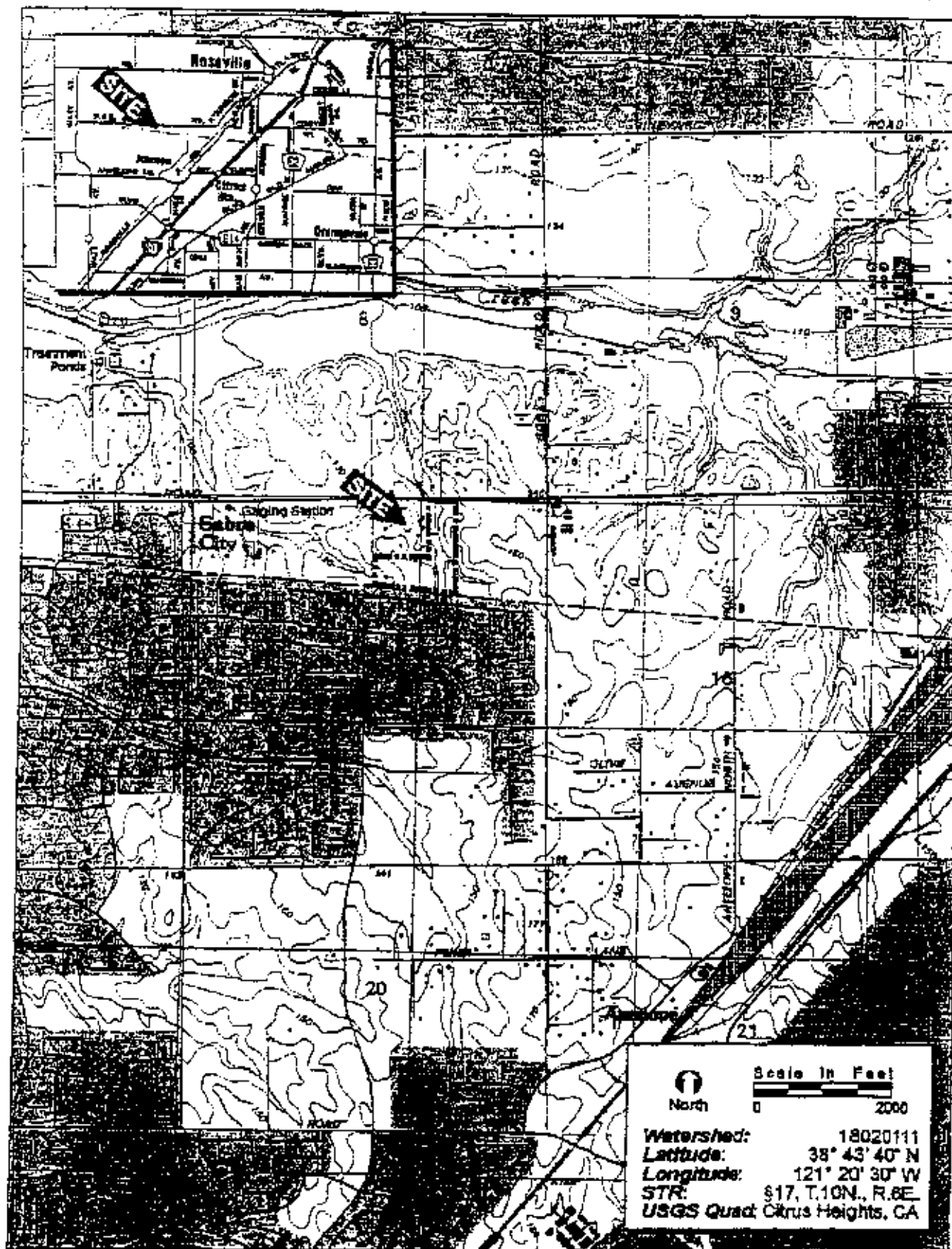
Included is a map showing the project area outlined. We would appreciate input on this undertaking from the Native American community with concerns about possible traditional cultural properties or potential impacts within or adjacent to the area of potential effect. Please understand that this is not a request for location, data or any other information that may be deemed sensitive or confidential to individual Native Americans, Native American organizations, or Federally Recognized Tribes. Information on other parties that may have interests or concerns in the undertaking would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your assistance in our cultural resource management consultation.

Sincerely,

Julia K. Green  
Cultural Resource Specialist







**FIGURE 1. Project Site and Vicinity**

2002-225 Almond Ranch



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

916 CAPITOL MALL ROOM 286  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 863-4032  
Fax (916) 827-8330  
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov



January 13, 2004

Julia K. Green  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.  
2260 Douglas Blvd, Suite 180  
Roseville, CA 95661

Sent by Fax: 916-782-9134  
Number of Pages: 2

RE: ~~Proposed Bellevue Ranch West, Merced County; Lincoln Palisades, Placer County;~~  
~~Fiddymont OH Site Improvements, Placer County; Almond Ranch, Placer County;~~  
~~Newwood & Main, Sacramento County; East Gruber Bradshaw, Sacramento County.~~

Dear Ms. Green:

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 863-4038.

Sincerely,

  
Debbie Pias-Treadway  
Environmental Specialist III

**NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS**  
**Placer County**  
**January 13, 2004**

Rose Enos  
5310 Bancroft Road                      Maidu  
Auburn, CA 95603                      Washoe  
(530) 878-2378

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
John Suehead  
575 Menio Drive, Suite 2                      Maidu  
Rocklin, CA 95765                      Miwok  
916 663-3720  
916 663-3727 - Fax

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Jeff Murray, Cultural Resources Manager  
P.O. Box 1340                      Miwok  
Shingle, CA 95682                      Maidu  
(530) 676-8010  
(530) 676-8033 Fax

Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation  
Christopher Suehead, Cultural Representative  
PO Box 1490                      Miwok  
Foresthill, CA 95631                      Maidu  
(530) 367-3893 - Voice / Fax  
ivmmcf@foothill.net

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Jessica Tavares, Chairperson  
575 Menio Drive, Suite 2                      Maidu  
Rocklin, CA 95765                      Miwok  
916 663-3720  
916 663-3727 - Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7000.3 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5067.94 of the Public Resource Code and Section 5067.38 of the Public Resource Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regards to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Almond Ranch, Placer County.



January 20, 2004

Rose Enos  
15310 Bancroft Road  
Auburn, California 95603

**RE: Cultural Resources Identification Efforts, Almond Ranch, Placer  
County, California**

Dear Rose Enos:

ECORP Consulting, Inc. has been retained to assist in the planning of the development of the parcel indicated above. As part of the Identification effort, we are seeking information from all parties that may have knowledge of or concerns with cultural resources in the area of study. A map showing the project study area is attached.

The State of California Native American Heritage Commission recommended that we contact you to provide an opportunity for you to contribute information about cultural resources within this project study area. An important element of our investigation is to identify sites, resources, or locations that are of cultural importance to the local Native American community. We would appreciate any information you might have concerning these resources in the project study area. If you cannot supply information, but know of others who can, we would appreciate it if you would provide us with the names of individuals.

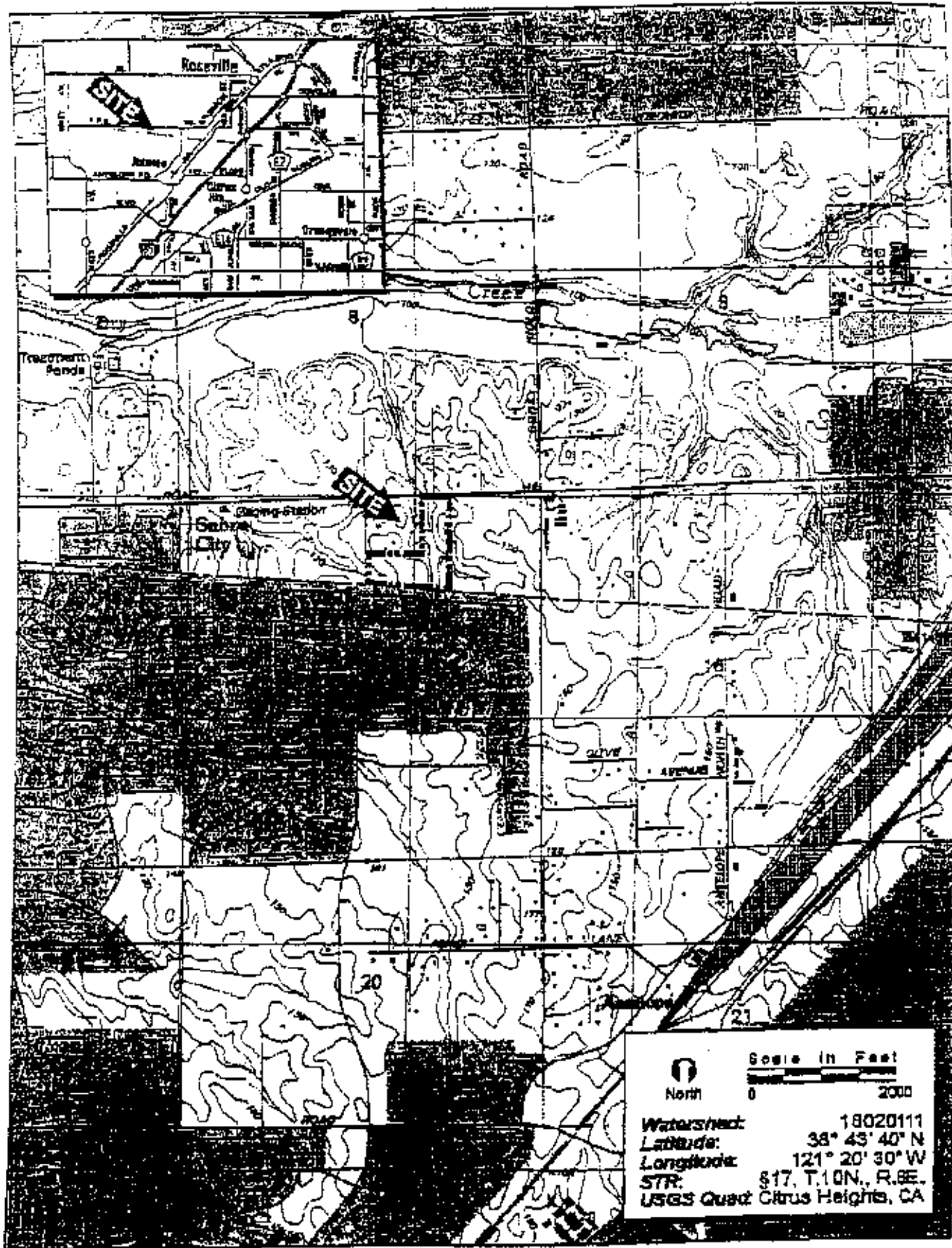
We encourage you to participate in this process. The potential impacts that this project may have on cultural resources important to the Native American community cannot be evaluated unless we are aware the resource(s) exist.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ECORP Consulting, Inc. at 916-782-9100. Thank you in advance for your participation in our cultural resource consultation.

Sincerely,

Julia K. Green  
Cultural Resource Specialist





**FIGURE 1. Project Site and Vicinity**

2002-223 Almond Ranch





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COUNCIL MEMBER

February 4, 2004

Julia Green  
Cultural Resource Specialist  
2260 Douglas Blvd., Suite 160  
Roseville, California 95661

**Subject: Impact to Cultural Resources on Project Site**

Dear Ms. Green,

We recently received a notification from you indicating that three development projects (Almond Ranch, [redacted]) are proposed in Placer County that have the potential to impact Native American cultural sites. As you may know, under the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, you are required to consult with Indian tribes that may have cultural affiliations or interest in your project. The United Auburn Indian Community is composed of Miwok and Maidu Indians with an ancestral territory encompassing Placer and Nevada Counties, and surrounding areas. We are concerned about projects that may impact our ancient burial grounds and village sites, and sites that have cultural and religious importance to us.

We would like to review a copy of the archeological records search for each site and, if the project areas have not been previously surveyed, we request that a qualified archaeologist prepare a report documenting a field survey before each project is approved. Upon reviewing this information, we will determine if cultural resources of importance to us may be impacted.

Please contact our environmental consultant, Dr. Shelley McGinnis, of Analytical Environmental Services, at (916) 447-3479 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Baker  
Tribal Administrator